



The Messenger

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A weekly publication of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Giving Hope: These Are the Times

Rev. Paul L. Escamilla

Sunday was a poignant celebration of the hope we are giving, and the hope we're given, through our life together in Christ. In worship we offered our gifts and ourselves to God through the act of consecrating pledges and estimates of giving for supporting the mission and ministry of Laurel Heights in the coming year. Those present in the sanctuary brought those symbols of commitment forward as an act of worship. And as is always true when God's people gather in worship, whether in person or online, so many things happened besides. Hearts have been stirred, imaginations kindled, decisions made for seeking to live in certain deeper, more generous ways.



We owe a special thanks to our Stewardship Committee, and to Susie Guven, who has led that team. They have done excellent work guiding us through this special season of discernment and decision.

If you have yet to complete a pledge or estimate of giving for 2021, you can do so securely online or by mailing your completed card to the church office or presenting it in worship this coming Sunday.

Elections are upon us, and I hope all of us have voted by now, or will in the coming week. The atmosphere around this election has been particularly tense, and the challenges all elected leaders will face, daunting. I often consider Abigail Adams to be the proto-presidential candidate. Though her husband John was more inclined to muse and fret, ruminate and worry about the state of things, Abigail possessed a sort of *chutzpah*-hope that led her to see with a stalwart gaze the possibilities before her fledgling country. During a particularly troubling stretch of early American history she wrote these words to her son, future president John Quincy Adams:

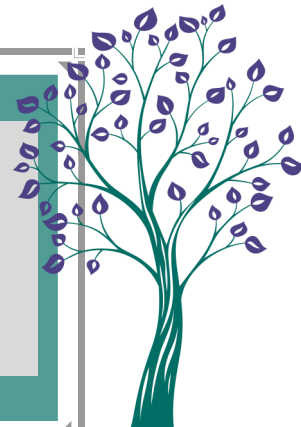
"These are the times in which a genius would *wish* to live . . . It is not in the still calm of life, or in the repose of a pacific station, that great characters are formed. The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties. Great necessities call out great virtues. When a mind is raised, and animated by the scenes that engage the heart, then those qualities which would otherwise lay dormant wake into life and form the character of the hero and the leader of state".

Now *there's* hope.

Grace and peace.

**Link to the 2021 Estimate
of Giving/Pledge Card:**

[Click Here](#)



Notes from the Faith Journey



I don't think I had much of a "faith journey." I was born into a Methodist family. Then I married Henry Holloway, Director of Music at Laurel Heights, we raised our children at Laurel Heights and continued much as I had begun. Laurel Heights has been my church home since the 4th grade.

I haven't moved far from where I started. I was born a Methodist, although one with High Anglican tendencies and apparently I will die a Methodist since Henry and I have purchased spots in the Laurel Heights Columbarium.

I hope my faith has deepened in the years I have lived as a Methodist, but there have been no "Road to Damascus" events. The underpinnings of the church community have supported me in all the ups and downs of life. Within the community I have found the courage to lead in ways I would never have considered. Being Director of Super Adults has shown me the amazing resiliency of the human spirit. I have learned that people, no matter what their background can come together in love; that every person has a story that is interesting and unique and that listening is the greatest gift you can give.

In studying Wesleyan Theology you come across the phrase "moving on to perfection." This is one of the tenets of Wesleyan belief. That it is possible to become better – to move toward perfection. Wesley took seriously Jesus' invitation in Matthew 5:48, "be ye therefore perfect as your father in heaven is perfect." My understanding is that he did not mean that we could become free from mistakes or failure, but that we could work toward perfection in love; love of our fellow man and all that requires of us.

I have faith in the future; that at some point we will decide that it is better to love and get along than to argue over issues that, in the end, do nothing to "move us on to perfection."

Susan Holloway



November 1st is All Saints' Sunday. In the 11 am online service, we will light a candle and toll the bell for each of those in the Laurel Heights family who have died since last year's All Saints' observance. Those sharing the livestreamed All Saints' service at home are invited to bring a candle to that service, preparing to light the candle during the memorial reading



I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die, but have everlasting life.

John 11:25

We Remember...

Name	Date
Vicki Moler	November 30, 2019
Dale Jacobs	December 9, 2019
Ann Schulze	February 26, 2020
Truman Smith	March 23, 2020
Lydia Powell	March 23, 2020
Mal Hierholzer	April 8, 2020
Diane Boehme	April 24, 2020
Reeves Smith	May 12, 2020
Beverly Smith	May 31, 2020
Larry Thompson, Sr.	June 2, 2020
Carolyn Hughes	June 24, 2020
Henry Birdwell	June 28, 2020
Mary De Leon Fonseca	July 13, 2020
Larry Thompson, Jr.	July 19, 2020
Henrietta Hopper	July 23, 2020
Gloria Sparkman	August 11, 2020
William Coker	August 16, 2020
John Ervin	October 9, 2020

Sunday's All Saints' Day observance will extend to Rowe Plaza. Between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. our church and community friends are invited to Rowe Plaza to light a candle in memory of a loved one, or as a symbol of lament and hopefulness.

At 12:45 p.m., we will read the names of those in the Laurel Heights congregation who have died in the last year, lighting a candle and tolling a bell for each. All are invited to Rowe Plaza to share this litany of remembrance.

Around the corner at Belknap and Woodlawn the Prayer Wall provides another opportunity to offer prayers of remembrance, gratitude, and hope.

The tower bells will be pealed at noon.



**COMMUNION
SUNDAY
via Zoom
Sunday
November 1
at 5 pm**



Each household will be encouraged to bring elements to this gathering—bread, and juice or wine—and to partake of these during the time of table sharing, each in our own location.

Three ways to join the service of Holy Communion:

Option 1: Click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98525289724>

Option 2: Use the Zoom app, click Join Meeting and enter the Meeting ID: 985 2528 9724

Option 3: Call (346)248-7799, and when prompted enter the Meeting ID: 985 2528 9724

Donate Blood



You are welcome to participate in a combined

Blood Drive

Sunday, November 8 from 9 am to -12 pm

at Coker United Methodist Church

231 E North Loop Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216

Yvonne Garcia, RN, our Wesley nurse will be present at Coker UMC for the Blood Drive.

Call Coker UMC at 210-494-3455 for a space and walk-ins are welcome!

Please call Yvonne at 210-272-7921 if you have questions.



**NOVEMBER
MISSION OF THE MONTH
CROP WALK**

What a year this has been! Yet, God calls us to be faithful in giving to provide for the needs of others. That is why **San Antonio Crop Walk is Laurel Heights' Mission of the Month for November.** Crop Hunger Walks are interfaith events that raise funds to end hunger around the world. The **SAN ANTONIO CROP WALK 2020** will go on, albeit in a new form.

Laurel Heights' goal for the Crop Walk is \$1,500 and San Antonio's goal is \$15,000.00.

This year 25% of the money raised will go to the following local organizations:

- The San Antonio Food Bank Daily Bread Ministries
- Creative Kids SA (a ministry of Temple Beth El)
- A.R. Nelson Outreach (a ministry of Bethel AME Church)

The rest of the money will go to support Church World Service development projects and disaster assistance globally. Your participation impacts individuals in more than 35 countries where many people walk up to six miles a day to get food and water. **One in nine people worldwide lacks access to clean water and a healthy diet.**

You may walk with your family or a few friends in your neighborhood or a park of your choice, before November 1 or in the weeks after that date. A Laurel Heights UMC Team page for the CROP WALK has been set up.

The link is: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/sanantoniotx/Team/View/140914/Laurel-Heights-UMC>

Donations can be made to the church team on this link or you can join the team and collect your own donations that go toward the team total. You can also make a check out to the church and in the memo line write CWS/ CROP.

Also, walkers are encouraged to take videos of their group to be posted on Facebook or whatever media platforms they are on. Two recorded meditations on the Crop Hunger Walk will be posted on the Crop Walk facebook page on Sunday November 1. This is instead of a virtual walk on Zoom.

I have been privileged to support the San Antonio Crop Walk to end world hunger by walking with fellow Laurel Heights' members since about 2004. It has always been a joy to know that I joined thousands of fellow Christians around the world in being the hands of Christ. When I was unable to physically join the walk, I have participated by praying and giving and have always been blessed by doing so. I believe you can't outgive God.

One of my greatest blessings has been reading about wonderful people like Nestor Montes who lives in one of the driest parts of Argentina. He works among the Wichi indigenous people. He learned how to build cement cisterns through a CWS sponsored program and now helps others build rooftop rainwater catchment systems. He also helps solve or prevent inter-ethnic conflict between peoples. He says, "when it comes to water...there is no difference between us."

Clyta Coder

Please join us in this year's San Antonio Crop Walk to help not only those in our own community but dedicated workers like Nestor, to provide clean drinking water and nutritional sustenance to people around the world.

Wednesday Prayer Service

November 4 from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Though scattered, we are gathered in prayer in the name of the One from whose love nothing can separate us.



*We will have a time to
gather by Zoom
to pray for one another
and the world.*

There are three ways to join the service:

Option 1:

Click on this link: <https://www.zoom.us/j/130214408>

Option 2:

Download the Zoom app, click Join Meeting and enter the Meeting ID: 130 214 408

Option 3:

Call (346) 248-7799, and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 130 214 408

Giving to Laurel Heights



Online Gifts: Please visit our website, , <https://www.laurelheights.org/give/>

Text to Give:

Please text "LHUMC" to 73256.

Checks: Please mail to

LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper 227 W. Woodlawn, SATX, 78212.



Mission of the Month for October

Magdalena House is a transitional neighborhood of homes in San Antonio that serves mothers and children who have fled dangerous and abusive lives by providing transformation through education, nurturing community, and programming. We rescue the least and the lost, sharing hope for a new beginning.

Magdalena House's Wish List: The best and easiest in-kind donations are gift cards in low denominations (\$10) for Walmart and HEB. These gift cards allow us to meet specific resident needs and obtain objects as we have need and space. These can be mailed directly to Magdalena House at P.O. Box 692041, San Antonio, TX 78269.



Thursday, October 29, 11 a.m.

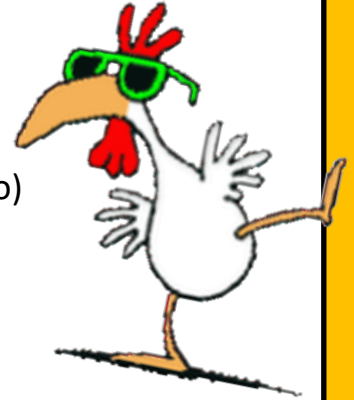
Good News!! A Super Adult OctoberFest.

Gather on the Woodlawn Parking Lot – wear your mask – after all it is nearly Halloween – practice Social Distancing – bring a chair or we will provide one and enjoy:

German Songs, Accordion Renditions, the Chicken Dance and Lunch.
Wear your Alpine hat, dirndl, etc.

**Everyone is
Welcome!**

On the menu is: Potato Salad
Hot Dog OR Sausage on a Tortilla (Taco Polako)
Sauerkraut OR Coleslaw
Apple Strudel
Cost: \$5.00
You can bring your own lunch if you prefer.



Reservations are a must. Space is limited. Call 210-872-8031



Contact Us

To reach the office staff by phone,
please call (210) 733-7156.

For an appointment with Yvonne Garcia, RN,
our Wesley Nurse,
please call (210) 272-7921.



www.LaurelHeights.org



*Lord, in your mercy,
hear our PRAYER*

You can offer a prayer of gratitude
or concern by emailing
prayers@mylhumc.org,
through [Facebook Messenger](#),
or calling the church office
(210) 733-7156.



FIND
YOUR MISSION



There are so many ways to serve God in our community! Here are some of the opportunities for service available this week.

MAGDALENA HOUSE

Opportunities range from child care to lawn care, repair work to event work, play days to paint days! Volunteers are also needed for their once a month family meals.

You can find details here: <https://maghouse.org/get-involved/volunteer.html>

MEALS ON WHEELS

Working with Meals on Wheels Families throughout the greater San Antonio region, you are doing much more than meal delivery. You are providing moments of personal connection – a smile, a heartfelt nod, a brief respite from the countless hours alone. Covid-19 precautions are in place.

<https://www.mowsatx.org/volunteer>

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity is currently building homes and there are many different opportunities to get involved with this good work.

<https://www.habitatsa.org/get-involved/>

Contact Judy Davis
or Katie Myers for
more information.



2020 CROP WALK

We will have a virtual gathering via Zoom at 2:00 p.m. on November 1.

Each individual, family or group is encouraged to walk on their own in the neighborhood, yard or park of their choice. You may walk anytime before November 1 or within a few weeks after.

The link for the Laurel Heights UMC Team page for the CROP WALK is:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/sanantoniotx/Team/View/140914/Laurel-Heights-UMC>

Donations can be made to the general team on the link. They can also join the team and collect their own donations that go toward the team total. You can be a physical walker or a virtual walker (i.e. someone who is raising funds only). You can also make a check out to the church and in the memo line write CWS/CROP.

Laurel Heights Online

Sunday Worship Livestream @ 11:00 a.m.

The livestream will be available for viewing at <https://www.laurelheights.org/online-worship/>
and Facebook.com/LaurelHeightsUMC



Sunday School

Children's Sunday school videos can be viewed anytime at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7425915/>

Adult Sunday school classes meet by Zoom.

Call (210) 974-1834 to find out more!



November 2 — November 11

11/3

Bonnie Henry

11/4

Adriana Dennis

11/7

Laura Medellin

11/8

Paul Escamilla

11/10

Eddie Madrigal

11/11

Katie Myers



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Healing: Deanna Adams (*Shirley Carter*),
Nathan Gaddis (*Bert Clayton*)
Concha Garces (*Teresa Garces*), Larry Howard,
Annalynn Jackson, Lucien Manchester, May O'Neal,
Marjorie Parrigan, Doug Semmes,
Bill Shepard (*Janice Clayton*), Nora Winkler.

God's Presence: firefighters in the western states and the people affected by fires, hurricanes and flooding, all workers helping with recovery efforts, Parents, Teachers and Students - Elementary, Middle School, High School, College - face to face and remote, those affected by the COVID-19 virus and their families, as well as for the caregivers and researchers working to treat those affected and combat the spread of the disease; homebound members, the incarcerated, and women and men in our military.



Realm Connect allows church members to view church news and upcoming events, share contact information with other members, and manage your giving. Please call Elizabeth Jackson @ 210-733-7156 or email ejackson@mylhumc.org for more information.

There are also videos on the church website to assist you.

